

**DULUTH AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION MEETING**

**Monday, May 18, 2009 – 5:00p.m.**

**Mayor's Reception Room**

**Room 405, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor City Hall**

**Present:** Rick DeFoe; Donna Ennis; Warner Wirta; Joy Dorscher; Renee Van Nett; Ron Boshey; Toni Dickenson; Tony LaDeaux; Michele Gordon; Bea Kitto

**Absent:** No one

**CALL TO ORDER, APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND INTRODUCTIONS:**

**Motion by Donna Ennis, seconded by Warner Wirta, call the meeting to order . The motion was unanimously approved.**

Agenda schedule amended by co-chair, Rick DeFoe, regarding resolutions brought forth to the commission.

**Motion by Joy Dorscher, seconded by Warner Wirta, to amend the agenda as recommended. The motion was unanimously approved.**

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 20, 2009 MEETING:**

**Motion by Donna Ennis, seconded by Warner Wirta, to approve the minutes. Motion approved by commissioners, with those absent from that particular meeting choosing to abstain.**

**COMMUNITY PUBLIC FORUM / OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

Donna Hoffer from the U.S. Department of Commerce Census Bureau spoke regarding the upcoming census. She spoke of why the census is important to Native people and all that is taken from this census to help Indian people. She asked for the support of the commission in the census, and handed out information to commissioners, asking that we partner in this census. She provided the commissioners with a partnership agreement form. This lists ways we can be helpful in partnering with the census bureau. It is important that all be counted, according to Ms. Hoffer. This census involved ten questions. Confidentiality is ensured. Numbers are all that are passed on.

Alan Richardson asked for time to speak. He was involved with the Campaign to protect Wild Rice of 2006 and 2007. He is now working with CHUM as a community organizer for them. Being involved with the Wild Rice campaign was positive for him, he shared. Housing discrimination can be intervened upon by CHUM and himself as an advocate. He has been involved in the anti-racism discussions at Peace Church. He shared that he can also provide training for Native people interested in anti-racism training. He brought handouts of

upcoming events. CHUM can also provide advocacy to people not getting their needs met through the housing redevelopment agency and housing issues. The Wild Rice Bill was explained by Mr. Richardson. He offered to send a copy of this bill to the commission. It could also be found on-line.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**AICHO'S Gimaajii (YWCA Housing/ Indian Center) update, project report –** Sherry Sanchez-Tibbetts and Maria Danz were both present for this agenda item. Keith Hamre suggested the commission get a monthly report from AICHO. Donna Ennis also shared a copy of an email that Keith Hamre received from Maria Danz on this date. It was emailed on Friday past. Sherry was asked about the \$12,000 that will be needed monthly to cover costs. Sherry stated that the MCT has committed verbally to having office space in the new Indian Center space, and that Mending the Sacred Hoop has expressed interest, but are currently in a lease situation that binds them. Discussion ensued regarding the issues of contracts and partnering between the commission and AICHO and the Community Development team. It was decided that a meeting is necessary to get “all parties involved as partners” together to discuss the issues that are conflicted. This meeting will include AICHO, Commission officers and Community Development staff. We will be partnering for several years. It was also discussed and decided that Toni Dickenson would sit on AICHO's board as a commission member to further our partnership.

Community member, Mr. Boshey, asked if any of the contractors for the work AICHO is having done would hire Native workers. Kraus Anderson has said they would hire Native laborers if they were unionized. Native people are encouraged to apply to the union for joining in order to be hired eventually. This includes union apprenticeship applicants.

**Civilian Review Board – Sub-committee report –** Tony LaDeaux shared that a lot of people have spoken to him from the community. A lot of people think the review board is a retaliation effort against the police department, which it is not. We will get more justice out of a review board than a court, according to Mr. LaDeaux. The main communication will be the media, he reported.

Mr. LaDeaux shared he is tired of being the target all the time. He shared his belief that information has to be “put out there to the community,” as to who will benefit from the review board. Tony shared he will be talking to a reporter tomorrow, and is not willing to hold it back anymore. Donna Ennis asked what he will be telling the reporters tomorrow. She shared that the community group she and Tony are a part of, has decided NOT to go to the media until a time when they will all go together. She asked that Tony not go to the media as he is planning. She shared that the small group needs some legitimacy (the ad hoc group). Rick DeFoe shared that the group wanted talking to the media to wait until the proposal has been decided. Joy Dorscher cautioned Tony LaDeaux regarding going to the media at this time. Discussion ensued regarding the

media and the community and the time it takes to get something like this done right. Donna Ennis shared that if Tony LaDeaux goes to the media at this time, she fears that the community group will possibly dissolve. Tony LaDeaux shared he is “tired of being the target.”

**Copy of Housing Developments policies and procedures via Rick Ball -**

Ron Boshey would like to go to the meeting of the Housing Development Agency to ask for their policies and procedures. Joy Dorscher also stated that Ron Boshey could bring in the minutes of the meeting where Ron Ball promised this to us.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Duluth Public Schools – Red Plan/Ordean School – Eric Kaiser, IDS, 709**

Mr. Kaiser was not present for this meeting tonight.

Warner Wirta shared a letter he wrote regarding his concern about the Eagles in this area. Copies of the letter have been sent to the City Council, the superintendent of schools and Reinert. He wishes to go on record and wishes to see a resolution from the DAIC protecting the Eagle at all costs. He will also be sending this letter to the Duluth News Tribune.

**Resolutions approved –**

- A. Resolution regarding Living Lake Coalition
- B. Resolution regarding Water Testing at the site of the Duluth City intake
- C. Resolution regarding Leonard Peltier
- D. Resolution regarding filling vacancy on commission

All of the above resolutions were voted on favorably by the commissioners, and will be signed by the officers. The secretary is awaiting more information to build the resolution regarding Leonard Peltier.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPCOMING EVENTS AND COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS:**

**NEXT MEETING/DATE/LOCATION:**

Monday, June 22, 2009 – 5:00p.m.  
Mayor’s Reception Room, #405, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, City Hall

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion by Michele Gordon, seconded by Ron Boshey, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.**

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Michele M. Gordon, Secretary